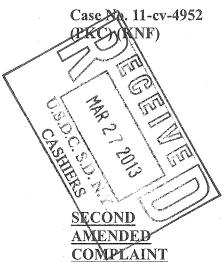
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
------x
UMAR ALLI,

Plaintiff,

ν.

CAPTAIN LISA STEWARD-BOWDEN (#1225); CAPTAIN JOHANNA BANKS (#819); CAPTAIN JOSEPH CAPUTO, CAPTAIN B. BEHARI (#1603); OFFICER LYDON VICTOR (#14410); OFFICER SANDY ARKHURST (#18507); OFFICER BUNTON; OFFICER TERRANCE DIXON (#17963); OFFICER ANDERSON ALCEUS (#18380); OFFICER VELEZ (#11352); OFFICER PHILLIPS; OFFICER ROHR (#18104); MARK A. SCOTT SHARMA DUNBAR (#717); WARDENS ROSE AGRO AND KATHLEEN MULVEY; CITY OF NEW YORK; DORA SCHRIRO; LEWIS FINKELMAN; CHARLTON LEMON; HILDY J. SIMMONS; MICHAEL J. REGAN; FLORENCE FINKLE; MICHAEL HOURIHANE; LARRY DAVIS, SR.; RICHARD T. WOLF CATHY POTLER; KENNITH T. ARMSTEAD CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES/ PRISON HEALTH SERVICES and JOHN DOES 1 THROUGH 6.



JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

Plaintiff, Umar Alli, through his undersigned *pro bono* counsel, hereby alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a civil rights action in which Plaintiff seeks to vindicate rights secured by 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.

- 2. This action arises from a series of events, beginning on or about May 5, 2011 when Plaintiff was brutally attacked by certain of the named-Defendants at the George R. Vierno Center ("GRVC") on Rikers Islan d, East Elmhurst New York (the "Incident" or "Assault"). At the time of the Assault, Plaintiff was a pre-trial detainee awaiting trial and sentencing, and only nineteen years old.
- 3. To conceal their assau lt, the Assaulting Officers, defined *infra*, conspired with other named-Defendants to, amongst other things, lodge disciplinary infractions against Mr. Alli for a number of offenses, for which a hearing was held on May 13, 2011 (the "Hearing").
- 4. The Hearing was riddled with due proce ss deficiencies, which ran afoul of Mr. Alli's constitutional rights, the policies and directives of the New York City Department ent of Corrections (the "Department" or "DOC") and the laws of the state of New York.
- 5. As a consequence of these massive breaches, Mr. Alli was confined to disciplinary segregation for 100 days, during wheich time certain named-Defendants caused Plaintiff to endure heinous confinement conditions and exhibited deliberate indifference towards Mr. Alli's serious medical needs.
- 6. As a result of these and other deprivations described herein, Mr. Alli has sustained permanent physical injuries, including but not limited to reduced vision, hearing loss, and other physical injuries as well as emotional harm.
- 7. Plaintiff seeks m onetary damages (special, compensatory, and punitive) against all Defendants, public disciplining and sanctioning of certain Defendants named herein, an award of costs and attorneys' fees, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 because P laintiff seeks to enforce rights secured by 42 U.S.C. § 1983, 1988. This Cour t also has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
 - 9. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c).

DEMAND FOR JURY

10. Plaintiff hereby dem ands a trial by jury of any and all is sues pertaining to this case including, but not limited to, damages.

THE PARTIES

- 11. Plaintiff Umar Alli is a United S tates Citizen. At all times alleged h erein, Mr. Alli was a pre-trial detainee in DOC custody, at GRVC.
- Defendants Lisa Steward-Bowden, Ande rson Alceus, Sandy Arkhurst, Terrence Dixon and Lydon Victor ("Assaulting Officers") were, at all times referred to in this Complaint, uniformed correction officers employed by DOC and assigned to GRVC. The Assaulting Officers were required to conduct their responsibilities in accordance with Departmental directives governing the use of force, inmate access to medical care, and the minimum standards governing conditions of confinement established by the New York City Board of Corrections ("BOC"). At all times referred to in this Complaint, Assaulting Officers acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These Defendants are each sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 13. Defendants Behari, Bunton, Dunbar, Phillip s, Rohr and Velez ("Uniform ed and Supervisory Of ficers") were, a tall times referred to in this Complaint, uniformed of ficers, captains and/or first-line supervisory officers employed by DOC and assigned to GRVC.

Uniformed and Supervisory Officers were required to perform their duties in a ccordance with Departmental directives govern ing the use of force, investigation thereo f, inm ate access to medical care, inmate grievance procedures and BOC minimum standards. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Uniformed and Supervisory Officers acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These e Defendants are each sued in their individual and official capacities.

- 14. Defendants Dora Schriro and Lewis Finkelm an were a t all times referred to in this Com plaint, and still are, the Comm issioner and First Deputy Comm issioner of DOC, respectively. Defendants Schriro and Finkelm an are legally responsible for the operation of all Department facilities, including but not limited to the selection, supervision, promotion, training, and discipline of the unisers formed staff, first-line supervisors, supervisory security personnel and for the care, custody, and content rol of all inmited accordance with the legal mandates applicable to DOC facilities, including but not limited to directives governing the use of force, inmate access to medical care, inmate grievance procedures and BOC minimum standards. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendants Schriro and Finkelman acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These Defendants are suled in high erindividual and official capacities.
- 15. Defendants Rose Agro and Kathleen Mulvey were, at all times referred to in this Complaint, GRVC W ardens responsible for the supervision of Assaulting Off icers as well a s Uniformed and Supervisory Officers, and for the care, custody and control of inm ates confined to GRVC. These responsibilities were and are required to be conducted in accordance with the legal mandates applicable to DOC facilities, including but not limited to directives governing

the use of force, inm at access to medical care, inmate grievance procedures and BOC minimum standards. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendants Agro and Mulvey acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. Defendants Agro and Mulvey are sued in their individual and official capacities.

- 16. Defendant Mark A. Scott was, at all times referred to in this Complainet, a Supervising W arden assigned to GRVC and responsible for the supervision of Assaulting Officers as well as Uniformed and Supervisory Officers, and for the care, custody and control of inmates confined to GRVC. These responsibilities were and are required to be conducted in accordance with the legical mandates applicable to DOC facilities, including but not limited to directives g overning the use of force, inmate access to medical care, inmate grievance procedures and BOC minimum standards. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendant Scott acted within the scope of his DOC employment and under color of state law. Defendant Scott is sued in his individual and official capacities.
- 17. Defendant Florence Finkle was, at all times referred to in this Complaint, Deputy Commissioner of Integrity and Policy for the DOC. In this role, Defendant Finkle was responsible for ordering and supervising the investigation of all use of force incidents and for initiating recommendations for disciplinary action against officers and captains who engage in misconduct. These responsibilities were to be conducted in accordance with the legal mandates applicable to DOC facilities. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendant Finkle acted within the scope of her DOC employment and under color of state law. She is sued in her individual and official capacities.
- 18. Defendant Charlton Le mon was, a tall times referred to in the is Complaint, Deputy Warden for Security for the DOC assigned to GRVC. In this role, Defendant Lemon

was responsible for the supervisi on of correction officers, captai ns and other supervisors with respect to the care, custody and control of inm ates confined to GRVC. These responsibilities were to be conducted in accordance with the legal mandates applicable to DOC facilities. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendant Lemon was acting within the scope of his DOC employment and under color of state law. De fendant Lemon is sued in his individual and official capacities.

- 19. Defendant Larry Davis, Sr. was, until approx imately December 2011, the Chief of the Department and was responsible for the supervision, oversight and discipline of the uniformed security staff, including the supervisory security staff, in all Department jails, including GRVC. The seresponsibilities were to be conducted in accordance with the legal mandates applicable to DOC facilities. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendant Davis acted within the scope of his DOC employment and under color of state law. He is sued in his individual and official capacities.
- 20. Defendant Michael Hourihane was at all times referred to in this Complaint until approximately December 2011, Deputy Chief of Depart ment, and since December 2011 has been Chief of Department. As Deputy Chief, Defendant Hourihane was responsible for monitoring and addressing all operational, safety and sec unity matters in DOC facilities, including GRVC. These responsibilities included maintaining statistics on violent incidents at DOC facilities and creating procedures to protect the personal safety of DOC staff and inmates confined to DOC custody. At all times referred to in this Complaint Defendant Hourihane acted within the scope of his DOC employment and under color of state law. Defendant Hourihane is sued in his individual and official capacities.

- 21. Defendants Michael J. Regan and Hildy J. Simmons were, at all times referred to in this Complaint, Chair and Vice- Chair of the BOC, respectively. Defendants Regan and Simmons were responsible for establishing and ensuring compliance with BOC minimum standards regulating conditions of confinement and health care in all New York City ("City") correctional facilities. These Defendants were required to actively investigate serious incidents, evaluate DOC performance, review inmate grievances and make recommendations concerning the same. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendants Regan and Simmons acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These Defendants are sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 22. Defendants Cathy Potler and Richard T. W olf, Esq. were, at all times referred to in this Complaint, Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of the BOC, respectively. These full-time DOC employees were responsible for ensuring that health care provided within all DOC facilities, including GRVC, was maintained "at a level consistent with legas and requirements, accepted professional standards and sound professional judgment and practice." Together, Defendants Potler and Wolf were responsible for maintaining the compliance of all DOC facilities with the sem inimum standards. At all times referred to in the is Complaint, Defendants Potler and Wolf acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These Defendants are sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 23. Defendant Kennith T. Ar mstead was, at a ll times referred to in this Com plaint, Director of Field Operations a nd a full time employee of the BO. C. In this role, Defendant Armstead supervised the daily activities of the field representatives who are required to canvas DOC facilities daily for purposes of monitoring compliance with BOC minimum standards. In this role, Defendant Arm stead was required to conduct frequent and targeted inspections of

DOC facilities to identify and resolve know n problem s, including but not lim ited to, unjustifiable uses of force and conditions of confine ment in breach of BOC Minim um Standards. At all times referred to in this Complaint, Defendant Armstead acted within the scope of his DOC employment and under color of state law. Defendant Armstead is sued in his individual and official capacities.

- 24. Defendants Agro, Arm stead, Davis, Fi nkle, Finkelm an, Hourihane, Lem on, Mulvey, Potler, Regan, Schriro, Scott, Simmons and Wolf are he reinafter collectively referred to as "Policy-making Defendants."
- 25. At all times referred to in this Complaint, John Does 1 through 6 were field representatives, serving as BOC's "eyes and ears" into the City's jails. These six Defendants were responsible for conducting site visits at all DOC facilities for the purpose of handling prisoner and staff complaints and violent and unusual incidents within all DOC facilities. At all times referred to in this Complaint, John Does 1 through 6 acted within the scope of their DOC employment and under color of state law. These Defendants are sued in their individual and official capacities.
- 26. Defendant City of New York ("City") is a municipal corporation, which, through the Department, operates a number of detention facilities, including the GRVC. The DOC, through its senior officials at the central office and in each facility, promulgates and implements policies, in cluding policies with respect to the use, reporting and investigation of force employed by unifor med staff, inmate grievance procedures and inmate access to medical and other services mandated by local law and court or ders. The DOC is also responsible for the appointment, training, monitoring, supervision, hiring and conduct of all DOC personnel, including the Defendants named herein.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

27. On June 8, 2011, and within ninety days of the accrual of the claims stated herein, Plaintiff, Um ar Alli, served on the Comptroller of the City of New York a Notice of Claim setting forth the time, place and manner in which his claims arose. More than 30 days have elapsed since the Plaintiff's Notice of Claim was served upon Defendant City and the matter has not been settled or otherwise resolved.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

28. The conduct engaged in by the D efendants named herein was, at all times, subjectively and objectively unreas onable and in violation of Mr. Alli's clear ly established rights.

Pre-textual Entry into Mr. Alli's Punitive Segregation Cell

29. On May 5, 2011, Mr. Alli becam e yet another victim of the "pattern of brutality" that has become "deeply entrenched" in New York City jails. *See e.g.*, *Nunez v. City of New York*, No. 11-cv-5845 (LTS) (JCF) (S. D.N.Y. Aug. 30, 2012) (the sixth and most recent class action challenging the "routine and institutionalized staff violence against inmates" in New York City jails); *Ingles v. To ro*, No. 01-cv-8279 (S.D.N.Y. April 4, 2006) (requesting system -wide relief from the excessive use of force in New York city jails); *Sheppard v. Phoenix*, No. 91-cv-4148 (S.D.N.Y. July 10, 1998) (challenging excessive use of force in the City's Central Punitive Segregation Unit); *Jackson v. Montemango*, No. 85-cv-2384 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 26, 1991) (challenging the same conduct in the Brooklyn House of Detention); *Reynolds v. Ward*, No. 81-cv-101 (S.D.N.Y. 1990) (challenging excessive and unnecessary force in the Bellevue Prison

Psychiatric Ward); *Fisher v. Ward*, No. 83-cv-2128 (S.D.N.Y. March 28, 1990) (challenging the same conduct in the Eric M. Taylor Center, a Rikers Island jail).¹

- 30. At the time of the Assault, Plaintiff was housed in the GRVC Mental Health Assessment Unit for Infracted Inmates ("MHAUII").
- 31. At approximately 10:42 pm, De fendant Steward-Bowden along with Defendant Arkhurst approached Plaintiff's cell door purportedly to serve Mr. Al li an infraction related to a prior, unrelated incident.
- 32. At approximately 10:44 pm, a third offi cer joined Defendants Steward-Bowden and Arkhurst outside of Mr. Alli's cell. Upon information and belief Defendant Dixon was the third officer. When Defendant Dixon arrived, Defendant Steward-Bowden appeared to be completing the paperwork she intended to serve on Mr. Alli.
- 33. Shortly thereafter, Steward-Bowden opened the outer portion of the cuffing port on Mr. Alli's cell, purportedly to serve Mr. Al li the infraction. Upon infor mation and belief, infractions are to be served beneath or through the side of the cell door.

¹ In add ition to these class actions, senior DOC supervisors and uniformed staff have been repeatedly sued by inmates alleging beatings by staff and DOC-s anctioned cover-ups. See, e.g., Youngblood v. Baldwin, No. 08-cv-5982 (S.D.N.Y. July 22, 2009) (alleging a staff beating at GRVC resulting in skull laceration and broken nose); Rice v. New York City Department of Corrections, No. 03-cv-582 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 26, 2004) (all eging the beating of two inm ates at GRVC resulting in collapsed 1 ung and contusion hem atomas, in one case, and neck and spinal cord in juries causing p ermanent stutter, in the other); Joseph v. New York City D epartment of Corrections, No. 02-cv-9219 (S.D.N.Y. May 28, 2003) (a lleging beat-up at GR VC resulting in orbital fracture); see also Reynolds v. City of New York, No. 11-cv-621 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 21, 2011); Williams v. City of New York, No. 09-cv-5734 (S.D. N.Y. Aug. 12, 2010); Lee v. Perez. No. 09-cv-3134 (S.D.N.Y. March 12, 2010); Shuford v. City of New York , No. 09-cv-945 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 22, 2009); Belvett v. City of New York , No. 09-cv-8090 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 18, 2010); Mull v. City of New York, No. 08-cv-8854 (S.D.N.Y. March 22, 2011); Diaz v. City of New York, No. 08-cv-4391 (S.D.N.Y. March 24, 2009); Lugo v. City of New Yor k, No. 08-cv-2931 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 20, 2009); Williams v. City of New York, No. 07-cv-11055 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 24, 2008); Cuadrado v. City of New York, No. 07-cv-1447 (S.D. N.Y. Dec. 26, 2007); Scott v. City of New York, No. 07-cv-3691 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 18, 2007).

- 34. Prior to signing an Investigation Report and Infraction, an inm ate is to be given an opportunity to such docum ents. Upon infor mation and belief, Defe ndant Steward-Bowden used the cuf fing port in this ins tance to prevent Mr. Alli f rom fully reviewing the report and infraction.
- 35. In addition to the improper service of the infraction, Steward-Bowden attempted to pass Mr. Alli an unauthor ized pen not appropria te for MAUII inm ates, per DOC and/or GRVC official policy, procedure and directives.
- 36. Defendant Steward-Bo wden insisted that Mr. Alli take her pen, although he advised her that he had an authorized pen in his cell. Upon information and belief, Defendant Steward-Bowden intended to claim that Mr. Alli had used her pen to harm him self thereby justifying Defendants' improper entry into Mr. Alli's cell.²
- 37. As Mr. Alli attem pted to review the inf raction, he observed that the inf raction was in an unusual form. In particular, he observed that the infraction contained extra sheets of paper after the signature page, separated by a piece of carbon paper.
- 38. Mr. Alli ask ed Defendant Steward-Bowden what was bene ath the c arbon paper. Rather than answering Mr. Alli's q uestion, Defendant Steward-Bowden chastised Mr. Alli to "just hurry up, read . . . and sign" the infraction.
- 39. Mr. Alli explained that he wanted to avoid signing something he could not read. In order to read the infraction in its entirety and avoid signing papers he had not reviewed, Mr. Alli attempted to review the portions of the infraction underneath the suspicious carbon paper.

² The investigative and officers' reports contain inconsistent and contradictory allegations regarding Mr. Alli's alleged attempt to har m him self with Defendant Steward-Bowden's unauthorized pen; nonetheless, all Assaulting Officers maintain that this act prompted entry into Mr. Alli's cell.

- 40. Growing increasingly impatient, Defendant Steward-Bowden told Mr. Alli he was "taking too long" and pulled the infraction from the cuffing port, causing it to tear.
- 41. Mr. Alli tried to assu re Defendant Steward-Bowden that it was not his intention for the infraction to rip. Defendant Steward-Bowden nonetheless ordered that the control room officer open or "crack" Mr. Alli's cell. Defendant Steward-Bowden gave the order to crack Mr. Alli's cell three or four times before control room officers took notice and opened the cell door.
- 42. Under DOC and/or GRVC official polic y, procedure and directives, Defendant Steward-Bowden had no legitim ate, non-punitive purpose in entering Mr. Alli's cell. To be sure, Mr. Alli's conduct warranted neither entry into his cell or the malicious and sadistic assault that transpired upon entry.
- 43. Defendant Steward-Bo wden's sole purpose in entering M r. Alli's cell was to inflict harm upon Mr. Alli. U pon information and belief, Assaulting Officers were m otivated *solely* by an interest in punishing Mr. Alli for misbehavior during Defendant Steward-Bowden's working shift ("tour") and for previously fi ling com plaints and grievances against DOC officials.

The Brutal Attack in Mr. Alli's Cell

- 44. The brutal battery began immediately upon entry into Mr. A lli's cell. Defendant Arkhurst entered first, followed by Defendants Dixon and Steward-Bowden.
- 45. Defendant Arkhurst delivered the first blow, a strike to Mr. Alli's left eye with a closed fist. The force of the blow knocked Mr. Alli to the floor. While on the floor, Defendants Arkhurst and Dixon repeatedly kicked, kneed, stomped and punched Mr. Alli.

- 46. At approximately 10:46 pm, Defendants Alceus and Victor arrived and promptly joined the attack.³
- 47. The Assaulting Officers' comments—such as "we're going to kill you;" "you think you're going to get away with fighting on our capitain's tour;" "take your beating like a man;" "you deserve it;" and "crival like the little bitch you are;" amongst other debasing comments—demonstrate the malicious, sadistic and punitive motivations behind the attack.
- 48. In addition, the Assaulting Officers called Mr. Alli "a sm art mouth," "snitch," and asked whether he thought he could get away with "writing complaints and grievances."
- 49. These statements make it clear that A ssaulting Officers were not acting in good faith *or* in attempt to r estore order but rather for the sole purpose of violating Mr. Alli's constitutional rights.
- 50. Mr. Alli b egged for the Assaulting Officers to stop, but the beating continued. During this time, Defendant Steward-Bowden did nothing to stop the attack but rather watched and encouraged it by cheering the other officers on.
- 51. Other inmates who were either in ear shot of Mr. Alli's scream s or had a direct view of the Assault beckoned for officers to cease the violent attack.
- 52. Realizing that other in mates could see the attack, Defendant Steward-Bowden turned off the lights in Mr. Alli's cell.
- 53. Minutes later, Steward-Bowden signaled for Defendants Alceus, Arkhurst, Dixon and Victor to end the A sault because too much time had passed. Upon information and belief, this comment demonstrates Defendant Stewar d-Bowden's awareness of DOC and/or GRVC

³ Upon inform ation and belief, Defendant Vi ctor was responsible for monitoring and supervising pantry and/or sanitation inmates. He abandoned his post, without ensuring that these inmates were contained as required by DOC and/or GRVC directives, policies and procedures, strictly for the purpose of participating in the brutal attack on Mr. Alli.

official policy, procedure and directives with respect to the presence of officers in an inmate's cells.

54. At approximately 10:49 pm, the Assaulting Officers began escorting Mr. Alli out of his cell, leading him towards the GRVC mini-clinic.

The Attack Resumes in the Mini-Clinic

- 55. GRVC maintains a main clinic and a mini-clinic. Upon inform ation and belief the main clinic is a 24/7 facility.
- 56. There are no cameras in the GRVC mini-clinic. Despite the many complaints by inmates that officers frequently use this unmonitored space to physically and sexually assault inmates, no steps have been taken to correct this major loophole in prison security and inmate safety.
- 57. The mini-clinic closes each day at or around 7:45 pm. Upon inform ation and belief, the mini-clinic is used primarily to provide treatment to punitive segregation inmates. After hours, however, punitive segregation inmates with medical needs are to be taken to the main clinic.
- 58. Given the time of night, around 10:49 pm, the mini-clinic was already closed at the time the Assaulting Off icers approached the mini-clinic with M r. Alli and there were no doctors or nurses on site. Accordingly, the Assaulting Officers had no legitimate non-punitive penological interest in approaching or entering the mini-clinic at that time.⁴

⁴ Assaulting Officers' reports collectively omit any reference to the m ini-clinic despite the fact that GRVC cam eras show Mr. Alli b eing taken towards the mini-clinic rather than the main clinic after leaving his cell.

- 59. While Defendants Steward-Bowden and Di xon searched the c ontrol room for a key to the locked m ini-clinic, Defendant Akhurst held Mr. Alli agains t the wall, twisting h is wrists and fingers, and threatening him with more abuse.
- 60. Having failed to find a key for the m ini-clinic, Defendant Dixon used a utility knife to pick the lock. Defendants Stewar d-Bowden, Arkhurst, Alceus and Dixon entered the mini-clinic. Defendant Victor left the scene and the attack continued.
- 61. Prison cam eras show that Mr. Alli was esco rted from his cell shirtless and handcuffed. He remained so throughout the attack.
- 62. In the m ini-clinic, as they had in P laintiff's cell, Defendants Alceus, A rkhurst and Dixon took turns striking Mr. Alli in the ribs, stomach, back, head and face. Each time Mr. Alli fell to the floor he was kicked, kneed and stomped until he was pulled back up to repeat the same vicious cycle. During this time, Defendant Steward-Bowden encouraged these officers to continue.
- 63. The attack continued for approxim ately ten minutes, at which point Defendants Alceus and Victor put a DOC shirt over Mr. Alli's head.
- 64. Before exiting the mini-clinic, Defendant Steward-Bowden made contact with Mr. Alli's face using a sharp object she held in her hands. The Injury to Inmate Report, completed following the attack, records abrasions on both sides of Mr. Alli's face.
- 65. The Assaulting Officers threatened to "kill" Mr. Alli if he reported the true cause of his injuries to the examining doctor.

Mr. Alli was Denied Appropriate Medical Attention

- 66. The BOC's Minim um Health Care Standa rds ("MHCS") require the at inmates receive prompt medical attention and explicitly prohibits delay, de nial and interference with an inmate's access to medical treatment.
- 67. Inmates in need of emergency services are to be granted access to such services promptly. In addition, such services are to be provided competently and "at a level consistent with legal requirements, accepted professional standards and sound professional judgment and practice." *See* Exhibit A § 3-01(a).
- 68. The care M r. Alli received immediately after the Incident and in the several weeks that followed fell grossly below this standard.
- 69. Upon arriving at the main clin ic, Mr. Alli waited approx imately one hour to receive medical attention, during which time he was in extreme pain and discomfort.
- 70. When finally examined by the docto r on call, the bulk of Mr. Alli's visible and nonvisible injuries were *not* recorded on the Injury to Inmate Report.
- 71. In addition, despite being in extrem e pain, the exam ining doctor failed to prescribe pain m edications *or* schedule follow-up appointm ents to review the extent of Mr. Alli's injuries.
- 72. After the exam ination, Mr. Alli was forced to walk barefoot with no aid or assistance back to his cell.
- 73. Had Mr. Alli received a proper exam, treatment and follow-up care, as required under the MHCS, the perm anent in juries he sustained would surely have been—at the very least—minimized.

The May 10, 2011 Infraction & Corresponding Cover-up

- 74. On May 10, 2011, the Assaulting Officers in fracted Plain tiff for disciplin ary offenses purportedly arising out of his conduct during the Assault (the "Infraction").
- 75. This Infraction was the first of a series of events intended to cover-up the initial wrongful act, namely the malicious Assault on Mr. Alli.
- 76. The Infraction, as required under DOC polic y, triggered an inve stigation. This investigation was, however, laced with inefficiencies, bias and due process violations.
- 77. For instance, Defendant Steward-Bowd en, who was the m aster-mind and, indisputably, a participant in the Assault, a lso participated in the investigation of the Incident. Her participation was strictly prohibited by DOC directives, policies and procedures given her involvement in the Assault.
- 78. The investigation conducted by Defenda nt Banks also fell short of DOC directives, policies and procedures, as well as constitutional principles. Defendant Banks did not initiate the investigation within 24 hours of the alleged offenses, failed to investigate Mr. Alli's excessive force allegations, and failed to obtain statements from material witnesses.
- 79. Prior to the DOC-mandated Hearing held on May 13, 2011 (the "Hearing"), Adjudication Captain Joseph Caputo failed to review the Infraction for due process violations and failed to investigate and report Mr. Alli's allegations of excessive force.
- 80. In fact, when Mr. Alli informed Defendant Caputo of the Assault in the miniclinic, the latter responded that it did not concern him.
- 81. Defendant Caputo similarly failed to review and/or facilitate the preservation of video capturing the Assault and denied Mr. Alli the opportunity to call and examine witnesses

during the Hearing, even where such witnesses would have offered relevant non-duplicative evidence.⁵

<u>Defendants Demonstrated Deliberate Indifference</u> to Mr. Alli's Need for Medical Care

- 82. In the week's following the Assault, Mr. Alli was denied access to necessary medical treatment, causing him to suffer permanent physical damage as a result of his injuries.
- 83. During his discip linary segregation, Mr. Alli made daily re quests to be seen by sick-call personnel.
- 84. Mr. Alli m ade these requests to pa sser-by m edical s taff and Def endant Assaulting Officers and Unifor med and Supervisor y Officers, all of whom repeatedly ignored Mr. Alli's requests.
- 85. For instance, Mr. Alli m ade daily re quests for medical care to D efendants Beharri, Bunton, Dixon, Phillips, Rohr and Velez, each of whom conducted daily tours, approximately fifteen per day, of Mr. Alli's housing area.
- 86. During this time, Mr. Alli was on medication for back pain and approved for care by a physical therapy. These Defendants repeat edly denied Mr. Alli's requests to see his physical the erapist in violation B OC Health Care Min imum Standards and constitutional principles.

⁵Specifically, Kiaza Loccenitt, then -GRVC in mate, submitted relevant, non-duplicative evidence in an Article 7 8 proceeding challenging these due process violations and the resulting 100 day punitive confinement. There, Loccenitt declared under penalty of perjury, that he had witnessed the brutal beating of Mr. Alli but was prevented from offering a voluntary statement. The Supreme Court of New York ordered that the Infraction be expunged and the 100 days credited to Mr. Alli on September 28, 2011.

- 87. Mr. Alli reported these denials to Defendants Steward-Bowden and Dunbar, both housing area captains of Mr. Alli 's housing area. These Defe ndants are responsible for the discipline, supervision, monitoring and training of the housing area officers in their charge.
- 88. Defendants Steward-Bowden and Dunbar neither ordered housing area officers to permit Mr. Alli to obta in medical attention nor di d they facilitate Mr. Alli's a ccess to medical care.
- 89. Upon inform ation and belief, Defendants John Does 1 through 6 canvased GRVC during this period and fail ed to docum ent, report, investigate, rem edy or otherwise intervene in protection of Plaintiff's constitutional rights.
- 90. The joint and conspiratorial action of Defendants Steward-Bowden, Dunbar, Behari, Bunton, Dixon, Phillips, Rohr and Vel ez constituted deliberate indifference to a substantial risk posed to Mr. Alli's health and safety and fell short of DOC and BOC directives, policies and standards governing inmates' access to health care.

Mr. Alli Reports Medical Needs to Policy-making Defendants⁶

- 91. Unable to obtain ass istance from GRVC officers and supervisory staf f, Mr. Alli began reporting these deprivations to the Policy-making Defendants named herein.
- 92. In a letter dated May 18, 2011, Mr. Alli complained to Defendants Schriro, Mulvey and/or Agro⁷ and Simmons, inform ing them that he had been assaulted in his cell at GRVC and that he was not "receiving medical care, despite . . . numerous complaints of severe

⁶ To the extent certain letters are undated or without addressee information, we have relied in good faith on the affidavits of service produced in discovery to determine when and to whom such letters were sent.

⁷ To the extent Defendant Mulvey w as no longer in the position of GRVC W arden, the letter would have been forwarded to Defendant Agro.

pain. I am in imminent danger and receiving numerous death threats from officers and capt[a]ins."

- 93. On May 23, 2011, Mr. Alli received a boiler-plate res ponse from the Director of Constituent Services, an employee within the office of Defendant Schriro, adv ising him in general terms that "the issues described in [his] letter are currently being investigated."
- 94. On June 1, 2011, M r. Alli wrote the Central Office Review Committee referencing prior grievances, describing his injuries and noting that he was being "deprived [of] medical care and forced to live under foul conditions. I also am struck around [by] these officers who[] daily harass me. Please help, adhere and investigate my complaint."
- 95. On June 2, 2011, a L egal Aid staff atto rney wrote to Defendants Ar mstead, Finkle, Finkelman, Potler and W olf on Mr. Alli's behalf. The em ail noted that Mr. Alli was being denied "pain medication and other basic necessities ... while ... detained in punitive segregation" and requested that Mr. Alli be "seen by medical staff as soon as possible "and given "appropriate and necessary medical treatment." (r eferred to h ereinafter as the "W ilker Email").
- 96. On June 6, 2011, a Legal Aid Society inte rn wrote Defendant Finkle, advising him that Alli had "suffered ocular damage to his left eye, bleeding from his right ear, soft tissue damage to his back, w hich has caused persistent back pain, extensi ve bruising to his ribs, and abrasions and contusions on his face and head."
- 97. On the same day, a Legal Aid Society in tern wrote Defendants Arm stead, Potler and Wolf, advising them that Mr. Alli had "suffered a severe traumatic injury to his ear, among other injuries, during a use of force incident at GRVC on May 5 and that he has not been seen by

medical staff with r espect to that in jury." Sawy er requested that "Alli's ear [be] evaluated as soon as possible" and that he "receive whatever treatment he needs."

- 98. On June 21, 2011, Mr. Alli receiv ed a respons e from an I GRP Investigator in Defendant-Schriro's office.
- 99. The investigator, a subordinate of Def endant Schriro, a dvised Mr. Alli that although the commissioner was in receipt of Mr. Alli's complaint, the complaint would not be pursued given that Mr. Alli had not submitted the complaint internally.
- 100. This advice was m isguided given that DOC Directive N o. 3376 establishes that Inmate alle gations of p hysical as sault are *not* subject to the Inm ate Grievance and Request program.
- 101. This m isinformation is a clear exam ple of the City and Policy-m aking Defendants' failure to train DOC officers, staff and employees. Such failures make it possible for subordinate officers to violate and cover-u p their unlaw ful conduct with im punity. This, amongst other conduct by *all* Defendants, violated Mr. Alli's constitutional rights.
- 102. When Mr. Alli was fin ally examined and diag nosed, he was nonetheless denied follow-up care, treatment and medication which further aggravated his injuries.
- 103. Mr. Alli's medical records confirm that the vision in his left eye has been severely compromised as a result of the Assault. Med ical doctors who have ex amined Mr. Alli have detected *trauma*, *iridodialysis*, *cataract*, *fluid and scarring* in Mr. Alli's left eye.
- 104. When finally exam ined by a specialis t, Mr. Alli was prescribed eye drops and pain medications, which prison officials and prison doctors denied him. Mr. Alli, to da te, is awaiting surgery for his eye.

- 105. These records also confirm that Mr. Alli has suffered hearing loss in h is left ear and requires use of a hearing aid.
- 106. Mr. Alli was fitted for a hearing a id but has not yet received one. A medical report dated February 2, 2012 noted that Mr. Alli had been "waiting for a hearing aid for 4-5 months." Mr. Alli has not received a hearing aid to date.

The Confinement Conditions imposed on Mr. Alli Were Punitive and Contrary to Constitutional Mandates

- 107. In the week's following the Assault, Mr. Alli was forced to endure he arsh and humiliating conditions antith etical to basic steandards of hum an dignity. These condition is violated his Constitutional rights, New York law, BOC Minimum Standards and DOC policies and directives.
- 108. Defendants-Assaulting Off icers and Def endants-Uniformed and Sup ervisory Officers conspired to create these conditions for no legitimate non-punitive penological purpose.
- 109. Upon information and belief, these Defendants intended to punish Mr. Alli for filing prior grievances and to prevent Mr. Alli from filing grievances regarding the conditions of his confinement at that time.
- 110. During this period, Mr. Alli was placed in a cell covered in feces. Despite many requests, Mr. Alli was not given cleaning supp lies, nor were clean ing personnel in structed to sterilize his cell. These deprivations are contrary to BOC Minimum Standards.
- 111. Defendant Victor was the sa nitation officer during the relevant period. It was directly within his purview to instruct maintenance personnel to sanitize or otherwise clean Mr. Alli's cell. Defendant Victor h ad no leg itimate non-punitive penological purpose in failing to ensure compliance with BOC Minimum Standards in this regard.

- 112. Mr. Alli's cell was also extremely cold during this period because of the high levels of air condition ing in MA UII. Defendants-Assaulting Officers and Defendants-Uniformed and Supervisory Officers knew that Mr. Alli did not have warm clothing in his cell.
- 113. These officers observed that the only clothing Mr. Alli had in his cell at that time was a t-shirt and und erwear. These officers maliciously, and with deliberate indifference, refused to provide Mr. Alli with blankets, sheets or warm clothing.
- 114. Defendant Victor was the linen exchange officer during the relevant period. It was thus directly within his purview to provide Mr. Alli with clean and appropriate clothing. Defendant Victor had no legitimate non-punitive penological purpose in failing to ensure compliance with BOC Minimum Standards in this regard.
- 115. As a result, Mr. Alli was forced to s leep *under* a naked mattress to keep warm. These deprivations are contrary to BOC Minimum Standards.
- 116. A working toilet and sink in each cell is mandated by BOC Minimum Standards. Upon information and belief, Defendant Rohr intentionally turned off water in Mr. Alli's cell. As a result, Mr. Alli was forced to either hold his bowel move ments or use a non-functional toilet.
- 117. When Mr. Alli reported these matters to Def endants-Assaulting Officers and Defendants-Uniformed and Supervisory Officers, he was told to "deal with it," to "have fun smelling his own feces," and that these conditions were his punishment for acting like a "dick," for "snitch[ing]" and for writing complaints.
- 118. Defendants' comments in this regard illustrate the punitive, evil and retaliatory motive behind their despicable conduct.

- 119. Mr. Alli was also denied phone usage. Upon information and belief, Defendants did so for the purpose of preventing Mr. Alli from calling the Department of Investigation or his attorney. Indeed, during this period, Defenda nts Steward-Bowden, Behari, Dixon, Phillips and Velez denied Mr. Alli's requests to call his counsel.
- 120. During this tim e, Mr. Alli com plained of these conditions to Defendants Steward-Bowden, Beha ri, Bunton, Dixon, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr, and Velez who exhibited deliberate indifference and, in fact, laughed and t eased Mr. Alli during their daily tours of the housing area, and encouraged inmates to do the same.
- 121. Mr. Alli was prohibited from showering duri ng this p eriod, a res triction that is inconsistent with BOC Minimum Standards.
- 122. Upon inform ation and belief, Defendants John Does 1 through 6 canvased GRVC during this period and fail ed to docum ent, report, investigate, rem edy or otherwise intervene in protection of Plaintiff's constitutional rights.
- 123. Defendants-Assaulting Off icers and Def endants-Uniformed and Sup ervisory Officers had no leg itimate non-punitive penological purpose for su bjecting Mr. Alli to these unconscionable conditions.

Mr. Alli Reports Confinement Conditions to Policy-making Defendants

- 124. On May 18, 2011, Mr. Alli wrote Defendant s Mulvey and/or Agro, Schriro and Simmons to provide a detailed report of the conditions to which he was being subjected.
- 125. The letter states, in part, "I was placed in a cell with feces on the walls, with no working toilet or sink due to officers turning of [f] my water, no personal property or sheets & blankets. . . . No cleaning materials were prov ided to clean feces even after complaining to officers." The letter also noted that Mr. Alli was denied phone usage during this period.

- 126. In a letter dated May 19, 2011 whi ch, upon information and belief, was sent to Defendants Mulvey, Schriro and Simmons, Mr. Alli wrote about being denied sheets, a blanket, phone usage, and the ability to use the toilet and sink.
- 127. In addition, Mr. Alli stated the had informed Defendants Behari, Steward-Bowden, Dixon, Rohr, Velez and other DOC personne 1, all of whom demonstrated deliberate indifference to the substantial risk posed to Mr. Alli's health and safety by these conditions.
- 128. On May 26, 2011, Mr. Alli wrote a complaint to the GR VC W arden. Upon information and belief, Defendant Agro had, by that time, assumed the position of GRVC Warden. The letter stated:

I have wrote many grievances and have received no response. [T]his is an appeal for the grievances I filed on May 12, 2011. I also have wrote you ample times for the same incident on May 5, 2011, where I was assaulted in my cell and the miniclinic of GRVC. I'm being force [d] to undergo unsanitary conditio n[s] and being denied medical care. Please help.

- 129. The W ilker Em ail, discussed at paragraph 95, *supra*, further infor med Defendants Finkle, Finkelman, Armstead and Wolf that Mr. Alli was being denied "*ample food*" and requested that these Defendants and the other recipients ensure that Mr. Alli " *receive[] all meals each day and any other mandated services*."
- 130. On June 8, 2011, Mr. Alli received a s econd boiler-plate response from the Director of Constituent Services, an employee within the office of Defendant Schriro, advising him in general terms that "the issues described in [his] letter are currently being investigated."
 - 131. Mr. Alli wrote Defendant Schriro again on June 12, 2011 stating:

I have not received a grievance log number [n] or ha[ve] any of my appeal steps... been answer[ed]. Please help resolve this matter and remove me from these cruel conditions, ... discipline the officers w hom participated in these actions and the grievance staff and committee for not answering my grievances including but not limited to my May 12, 2011 grievances. Also keep me away from the following staff because they were trying to harm

me; Officer Dixon, Arkhurst, Victor, Alceu s, Rohr, Phillips, Bunto n and Captains Steward-Bowden, Beharri and Dunbar.

132. This letter was a cry for help and put Defendant Schriro on notice that Mr. Alli's health and safety were substantially at risk.

<u>Defendants' Conduct Egregiously</u> <u>Violated DOC and BOC Policies & Directives</u>

A. Use of Force

- 133. The Department has implemented Use of Force Directive No. 5006R (attached as "Exhibit A" hereto). Under this Directive, force is to be used only after all reasonable efforts to resolve a situation have failed.
- 134. Correction officers and DOC staff are permitted to use force commensurate to the level of treat posed by the inmate at that time.
- 135. This directive prohibits use of force as a m eans to *punish*, when an inmate poses no threat, or when an inmate is not resisting staff.
- 136. This directive m andates that "blows s hould not be struck if control holds, grasping" or other less harmful methods "would be adequate to restrain the inmate."

B. <u>Health Care Minimum Standards</u>

- 137. The BOC has established m inimum standards pertaining to inm at access to medical care. Medical care within DOC facilities is to be maintained "at a level consistent with legal requirements, accepted professional stan dards and sound professional jud gment and practice." (attached as "Exhibit B" hereto)
- 138. These standards contemplate (i) the provision of prompt medical treatment and follow-up care as well as emergency services; (ii) the regular training and development of health

care personnel and correctional sta ff as appropria te to the eir role in the health care delivery system; and (iii) an ongoing review and assessment of the quality of care provided to inmates.

- 139. In addition, these standards expressly prohibit DOC staff, officers and personnel from delaying, denying or otherwise interfering with an in mate's access to medical attention.

 DOC officers with knowledge of an inmate's need for medical care are to report such need promptly.
- 140. In addition, all decisions regarding m edical attention are to be made by health care personnel *only* and sick calls are to be available to inmates every day within 24 hours of a request for care.
- 141. To the extent appropriate treatment for an inmate's injuries is not available within the correctional facility, these standards mandate that specialty services be provided to inmates *in the time frames specified* by referring medical personnel.

C. <u>Minimum Standards Governing Conditions of Confinement</u>

- 142. The BOC has established Minimum Standards pertaining to inmate conditions of confinement that apply to all inmates. (attached as "**Exhibit C**" hereto) These standards prohibit the imposition of restrictions on inmates that do not serve a legitimate non-punitive penological purpose.
- 143. These standards afford inmates the right to shower daily, and require that all inmates be given personal health items, including soap, toothbrushes and powder (a substitute for toothpaste), towels and toilet paper.
- 144. These standards mandate that inmates be given adequate bedding, which includes one pillow and pillow case, two sheets, one mattress, a mattress cover and "sufficient blankets to provide comfort and warmth." (emphasis added)

- 145. These standards mandate the "regular cleaning of all housing areas including *cells*, tiers, dayrooms, and windows" and contemplate that inmates are supplied with brooms and mops, appropriate cleaning substances and disinfectants, and other materials sufficient to properly clean and maintain housing areas. (emphasis added)
- 146. These standards govern inmate clothing and require that inmates be provided with clean clothes every four days. All named-Defendants were required to adhere to and/or ensure compliance with these standards.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

- 147. Pursuant to Directive N o. 3376, Inm ate allegations of physical assault are *not* subject to the Inm ate Grievance and Request program. Nonetheless, Mr. Alli has exhausted administrative remedies with respect to all claims raised herein.
- 148. On May 27, 2011, Plaintiff se rved a grievance on the GRVC grievance clerk in which he complained of all of the conduct at issue herein. The letter read, in pertinent part:

On May 5th I was assaulted by officers. On May 8th, I was placed in a cell with feces on the walls, no working sink or toilet . . . no personal property, phone usage or blankets. Despite numerous complaints on all the above, no changes were made.

- 149. On June 1, 2011, Mr. Alli m ailed a lett er to the Cen tral Office Review Committee which noted, in pertinent part, " I was assaulted on May 5, 2011 in my cell and the mini clinic resulting [in] multiple injuries. I have been deprived medical care and forced to live under foul conditions."
- 150. On June 28, 2011, Mr. Alli wrote a letter to the GRVC Gr ievance Supervisor which advised that as a result of the Assault, Mr. Alli was experiencing "pains in [his] head and eyes," reduced vision, deafness and severe back pains.

- 151. In addition, multiple complaints do cumenting the conduct at is sue herein were made to Defendants Agro, Arm stead, Finkle, Finkelman, Mulvey, Schriro, Simmons and Wolf, both by Mr. Alli and the Legal Aid Society acting on his behalf.
- 152. In any event, Plaintiff's efforts to strictly comply with grievance procedures were inhibited by the conduct of DOC staff. Despit e numerous requests for the relevant grievance directives, DOC staff refused to provide them to Mr. Alli.
- 153. Upon infor mation and belief, DOC staf f on m ore than one occasion have confiscated copies of the grievance directives found in the possession of inmates.
- 154. Due to the com plexity of the griev ance process, Mr. Alli r equired assistance to fully understand the process required for adm inistrative exhaustion. However, DOC staff were unable and/or unwilling to explain the necessary steps of exhaustion.
- 155. In addition, the MAUII area in which Pl aintiff was confined was not equipped with a grievance box, nor did grievance officers regularly canvas the MAU II unit. Thus, any failure by Mr. Alli to exhaust administrative remedies should be excused.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

FIRST CLAIM: CLAIM FOR FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS (Against Assaulting Officers for Use of Excessive Force Pursuant to § 1983)

- 156. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 157. Defendants Steward-B owden, Alceus, Arkhurst, Dixon and Victor, by their conduct, willfully violated Mr. Al li's clearly established rights by intentionally and maliciously subjecting him to excessive force for no legitimate non-punitive penological purpose.

- 158. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith or qualified immunity defense.
- 159. As a proxim ate result of such conduct, Mr. Alli suffered severe and perm anent injuries, including hearing loss, reduced vision, other physical injuries and emotional harm.
- 160. Defendants' conduct demonstrated deliberat e indifference to the substantial risk such excessive force posed to Mr. Alli's hea lth and safety. Mr. Alli is e ntitled to da mages for this conduct.

SECOND CLAIM: CLAIM FOR FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS

(Against Defendants-Assaulting Officers and Defendants Behari, Bunton, Dunbar, Phillips,
Rohr, Velez, John Does 1 through 6 and Correctional Health Services/Prison Health Services for
Deliberate Indifference to Medical Needs Pursuant to § 1983)

- 161. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 162. Defendants Steward-Bowden, Alceus, Ar khurst, Dixon, and Victor intentionally delayed, postponed and/or interfered with Mr. A lli's need for medical attention following the Assault.
- 163. These Assaulting Officers then conspired with Defendants Behari, Bunton, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr and Velez to prevent Mr. Alli from receiving necessary, appropriate and prompt medical care.
- 164. Despite Mr. Alli's numerous complaints to each of these officers and Joh n Does 1-6, these Defendants delayed, denied, postponed, or otherwise interfered with Mr. Alli's access to medical care for no legitimate non-punitive penological purpose.

- 165. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an dare not entitled to a good faith or qualified immunity defense.
- 166. By their conduct, these Defendants dem onstrated deliberate indifference to the substantial risk posed to Mr. Alli's health and safety as a result of his injuries. As a consequence thereof, Mr. Alli sustained permanent loss of hearing, vision and other bodily injuries as well as emotional harm.
 - 167. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

THIRD CLAIM: CLAIM FOR RELIEF FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS (Against Defendants Banks and Caputo for Violation of Due Process Pursuant to § 1983)

- 168. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 169. Pre-trial detainees are entitled to certain procedural protections whenever further loss of liberty can result from disciplinary action.
- 170. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, an inmate is entitled to (i) advanced notice of the charges against him; (ii) a hearing affording him a reasonable opportunity to call witnesses and present documentary evidence; and (iii) a fair and impartial hearing officer, amongst other things.
- 171. This standard is supplemented by DOC Directive 6500-R, which establishes the procedure for processing pre-hearing detention and inmate disciplinary infractions.
- 172. Defendant Caputo violated DOC due process procedures as well as Mr. Alli's constitutional rights by, amongst other things:

- (i) failing to dismiss the Infraction despite the fact that Defendant Steward-Bowden, who participated in the Assault, was also involved in the investigation;
- (ii) failing to dismiss the Infraction on due process grounds given that the investigation was not initiated within 24 hours of the Incident;
- (iii) failing to call witnesses with knowledge of the Incident;
- (iv) failing to credit Mr. Alli's account of the Incident;
- (v) failing to take, review and preserve crucial evidence, including witness accounts, videotape, medical records and physical evidence;
- (vi) turning a blind eye to falsified reports submitted by Assaulting Officers;
- (vii) turning a blind eye to inconsistencies in material facts stated in the investigative and officers' reports;
- (viii) relying on facts outside of the evidentiary record;
- (ix) confining Plaintiff to 100 days of disciplinary segregation;
- (x) failing to credit said days upon the outcome of the Article 78 proceeding; and
- (xi) failing to consider Plaintiff's mental health status during the hearing.
- 173. Defendant Banks violated DOC due process Directives and Mr. Alli's constitutional rights by, amongst other things, (i) failing to interview witnesses with knowledge of the Incident; (ii) failing to commence an investigation within 24 hours of the Incident; and (iii) conducting a biased investigation.
- 174. Defendants Banks and Caputo acted in clea r violation of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been awar e, and are not entitled to a good faith or qualified immunity defense.
- 175. These deficiencies led to Mr. Alli's disciplinary confinement and loss of liberty without due process of law in violation of Mr. Alli's clearly established rights.

176. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

FOURTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR RELIEF FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS

(Against Policy-making Defendants for Due Process Violations Pursuant to § 1983)

- 177. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 178. Policy-making Defendants have, for some time, been on actual notice of the inadequacy of hearings offered to inmates within the GRVC and other DOC facilities.
- 179. Former and current lawsuits made plain that Hearing and Investigating Officers frequently fail to credit inmate accounts, fail to take, review and preserve crucial evidence, including witness accounts, videotapes, medical records and physical evidence.
- 180. Policy-making Defendants' failure to take measures to correct these behaviors created an environment where subordinates were and continue to be able to commit due process and other violations with impunity.
- 181. Such failure to act constituted deliberate indifference to the rampant due process violations within DOC facilities, including GRVC, in connection with the administration of inmate infractions and disciplinary procedures.
- 182. In addition, Policy-making Defendants affirmed Defendant Caputo's Hearing determination by failing to take action even after the Infraction was expunged by the New York Supreme Court.
- 183. In so doing, these Defendants directly participated in the liberty deprivations imposed upon Mr. Alli and violated Mr. Alli's clearly established rights.

- 184. Policy-making Defendants acted in clear violation of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an dare not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
 - 185. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

FIFTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS (Against Defendants Assaulting Officers, Defendants Uniformed and Supervisory Officers, Defendants Agro, Armstead, Finkle, Finkelman, Mulvey, Potler, Schriro, Simmons and Wolf, and Defendants John Does 1 through 6 for Constitutionally Inadequate Conditions of Confinement Pursuant to § 1983)

- 186. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 187. The conditions of Plaintiff's confinement following the Assault and throughout the 100 day disciplinary confinement was objectively and subjectively serious and an affront to the basic dignities afforded to inmates under the Constitution and New York law.
- 188. Following the Assault and throughout the disciplinary period, Mr. Alli was deprived of adequate food, clothing, medical care, a working toilet and sink; he was forced to hold his feces or use a non-working toilet; he was deprived of cleaning items and personal property mandated by BOC Minimum Standards; and forced to occupy a cell covered in feces.
- 189. Assaulting Officers conspired with Defendants Uniformed and Supervisory

 Officers to impose these conditions in an attempt to punish Mr. Alli for previous grievances and what they perceived as prior misbehavior.
- 190. Defendants John Does 1 through 6 were responsible for regularly canvasing all DOC facilities during this time period, including GRVC and MAUII and were required, but failed to, record and investigate Mr. Alli's complaints regarding the heinous conditions to which he was being subjected.

- 191. In addition, Defendants Agro, Armstead, Finkle, Finkelman, Mulvey, Potler, Schriro, Simmons and Wolf were aware of the conditions imposed on Mr. Alli and failed to take corrective action.
- 192. The multiple complaints made by Mr. Alli to Defendants Agro, Armstead, Finkle, Finkelman, Mulvey, Schriro, Simmons and Wolf provided sufficient information from which to draw an inference that Mr. Alli's health and safety were substantially at risk as a result of these conditions and Mr. Alli's clearly established rights.
- 193. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, and thus are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
 - 194. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

SIXTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR FIRST & FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS

(Against Assaulting Officers and Defendants Uniformed and Supervisory Officers for Unlawful Retaliation Pursuant to § 1983)

- 195. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 196. Plaintiff's First Amendment right to complain and to file grievances was chilled by the conduct described herein.
- 197. As demonstrated by their comments during the attack, Assaulting Officers were motivated in part by retaliation against Mr. Alli for reporting the prior misconduct of DOC officers.
- 198. Defendants Behari, Bunton, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr and Velez thereafter caused further First Amendment deprivations by preventing Mr. Alli from making calls to family

members, his attorney and investigative agencies to report the heinous conditions he was forced to endure.

- 199. In addition, during Mr. Alli's disciplinary segregation, DOC staff and employees restricted Mr. Alli's access to grievance procedures.
- 200. The aforementioned conduct would prevent a person of ordinary firmness, and did prevent Mr. Alli, from exercising clearly established rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.
- 201. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
 - 202. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

SEVENTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS (Municipal & Supervisory Liability Pursuant to § 1983 for All Claims)

- 203. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 204. Defendants Agro, Arm stead, Davis, Fi nkle, Finkelm an, Hourihane, Lem on, Mulvey, Potler, Regan, Schriro, Scott, Simmons and Wolf are municipal agents "whose acts may be fairly said to be those of the municipality."
- 205. These Defendants failed to intervene to protect Plain tiff's constitutional rights from infringement, were grossly negligent in supervising subordinates who committed the wrongful acts, and/or aided and abetted and/or conspired to deprive, participated in depriving, and/or did deprive Plain tiff of certain constitutionally protected rights including, but not limited to:
 - (i) the right not to be subjected to excessive force;

- (ii) the right to a fair inves stigation and non-biased disciplinary hearing in connection with disciplinary infractions and offenses;
- (iii) the right to conditions of confinem ent commensurate to BO C Minimum Standards and the United States Constitution;
- (iv) the right to m edical care commensurate to BOC Health Care Min imum Standards and the United States Constitution; and
- (v) the right to complain about and/or grieve all matters involving the misconduct of DOC uniformed officers and officials.
- 206. The City and Policy-m aking Defendants knew or should have known that their employees, agents, and subordinates had the propensity to engage in the illegal and wrongful acts described herein.
- 207. Indeed, upon inform ation and belief, Defendants Arkhurst, Behari, Bunton, Dixon, Dunbar, Philips, Steward-Bowden, Vel ez and Victor, have al 1 been implicated in excessive force incidents involving inmates housed in GRVC or other DOC facilities.
- 208. In addition, the City and Policy-making Defendants have been aware for some time (from lawsuits, notices of claim, and complaints from inmates, their family members, friends, press reports and internal investigations) that their employees, subordinates and agents routinely engage in incidents of excessive force followed by concerted efforts to cover up wrongdoing.
- 209. The City and Supervisory Defendants created, fostered, perpetuated and promoted unconstitutional customs, practices and policies by, amongst other things:
 - (i) failing to protect and supervise deta inees within the care, custody and control of the DOC;
 - (ii) failing to equip unm onitored areas, su ch as the GRVC m ini-clinic with cameras and/or other devices to red uce the incidence of physical assault on inmates;
 - (iii) failing to implement and develop policies and procedures sufficient to safeguard the health, safety and welf are of detain ees within the care custody and control of the DOC;

- (iv) failing to e nforce existing rules designed to sa feguard the health, safety and welfare of detainees within the care, custody and control of the DOC;
- (v) failing to discipline and/or prosecu te correction officers for em ploying excessive force against detainees in their care, custody and control or engaging in other misconduct under color of state law;
- (vi) failing to train and instruct subordina te employees regarding the inm ate grievance p rocess and the pro tections guaranteed to all inm ates a nd detainees subject to disciplinary infractions and/or hearings;
- (vii) failing to monitor the conduct of s ubordinate em ployees to determine whether DOC directives and official polices were bei ng complied with; and
- (viii) failing to investigate and penetrate the code of silence amongst officers participating in wrongful conduct.
- 210. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
- 211. These failures facilitated, promoted and exacerbated the unconstitutional practices which proximately caused the injuries alleged herein and violated Plaintiff's clearly established rights.
 - 212. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for this conduct.

EIGHTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR ASSAULT & BATTERY

(Against Assaulting Officers)

- 213. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 214. At all times alleged herein, Defendants Steward-Bowden, Alceus, Arkhurst, Dixon and Victor were acting within the scope of their employment and under color of state law.

- 215. Upon approaching and entering Mr. Alli's cell, Defendants Steward-Bowden, Alceus, Arkhurst, Dixon and Victor placed Mr. Alli in apprehension of immediate harm and/or offensive touching.
- 216. These Defendants thereafter engaged in and subjected Plaintiff to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching, giving rise to an unlawful battery.
- 217. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
- 218. As a proximate cause of such conduct, Mr. Alli sustained permanent loss of vision, hearing, other bodily injuries and emotional harm.
- 219. This conduct violated Mr. Alli's clearly established rights and he is entitled to damages for such conduct.

NINTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR NEGLIGENCE

(Against all Defendants)

- 220. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 221. At all times alleged herein, Defendants acted under color of state law in their capacity of DOC officers, employees, staff, and/or agents and were required to act with due care and in conformity with DOC standards and directives and with the United States Constitution.
- 222. Assaulting Officers as well as Defendants Behari, Bunton, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr and Velez breached this duty by causing Mr. Alli's bodily injuries and/or deliberately denying, delaying or otherwise interfering with his access to appropriate medical care.
- 223. Policy-making Defendants Agro, Armstead, Davis, Finkle, Finkelman, Hourihane, Lemon, Mulvey, Potler, Regan, Schriro, Simmons and Wolf breached this duty by

failing to monitor, supervise, train, remove and discipline subordinate officers who were predisposed to committing the acts complained of herein.

- 224. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
- 225. The negligence of these Defendants was the proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Mr. Alli and violated his clearly established rights.
 - 226. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for this conduct.

TENTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR NEGLIGENT HIRING AND SUPERVISION (Against Policy-making Defendants and the City)

- 227. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 228. At all times alleged herein, Defendants acted under color of state law in their capacity of DOC high-ranking officials and were required to act with due care in the hiring, monitoring, appointment, training and supervision of all DOC personnel, including the defendants referenced herein.
- 229. The City and Policy-making Defendants failed to exercise due care in the hiring, monitoring, appointment, training and supervision of the employees within their charge, including Defendants Assaulting Officers and Defendants-Uniformed and Supervisory Officers.
- 230. The City and Policy-making Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants Steward-Bowden, Alceus, Arkhurst, Behari, Dixon, Dunbar, Phillips, Velez and Victor were unfit to serve their respective roles and had a propensity to engage in violent, unprovoked conduct against inmates and detainees.

- 231. The negligence of Defendant City and Policy-making Defendants proximately caused Plaintiff's injuries and violated Mr. Alli's clearly established rights.
- 232. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
 - 233. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for this conduct.

ELEVENTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR CONSPIRACY

(Against Defendants Assaulting Officers, Defendants Banks, Behari, Bunton, Caputo, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr and Velez)

- 234. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 235. At all times alleged herein, Defendants acted under color of state law in their capacity of DOC officers, employees, staff, and/or agents.
- 236. Defendants Steward-Bowden, Alceus, Arkhurst, Banks, Behari, Bunton, Caputo, Dixon, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr, Velez and Victor made an agreement to retaliate against Mr. Alli as punishment for filing grievances, complaining about officer misconduct and misbehavior during Steward-Bowden's tour.
- 237. In furtherance of said agreement, these Defendants assaulted Mr. Alli, conducted a biased investigation and administrative hearing, denied Mr. Alli appropriate health care, and subjected him to heinous conditions of confinement.
- 238. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.

- 239. These actions proximately caused Mr. Alli's injuries and violated his clearly established rights.
 - 240. Mr. Alli is entitled to damages for this conduct.

TWELFTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR AIDING & ABETTING (Against Defendants Banks, Caputo and Uniformed & Supervisory Officers)

- 241. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 242. At all times alleged herein, Defendants acted under color of state law in their capacity of DOC officers, employees, staff, and/or agents.
- 243. Defendants Banks, Behari, Bunton, Caputo, Dunbar, Phillips, Rohr and Velez aided and abetted Assaulting Officers in subjecting Mr. Alli to excessive force by, amongst other things: (i) failing to carry out an adequate investigation; (ii) failing to provide a non-biased Hearing, (iii) failing to investigate and/or report Mr. Alli's allegations of excessive force; (iv) delaying, postponing or otherwise interfering with prompt medical care for injuries resulting from the Assault; and (v) preventing Mr. Alli from reporting the same by, amongst other things, denying him phone usage for no legitimate, non-punitive penological purpose.
- 244. These Defendants shared the purpose of the principal Assaulting Officers, namely to punish, retaliate against and/or otherwise harm Mr. Alli in connection with prior complaints and grievances Mr. Alli filed against DOC officers and officials.
- 245. These Defendants acted in clear viola tion of well-settled law, of which a reasonable person should have been aware, an d are not entitled to a good faith defense or qualified immunity defense.
- 246. This conduct violated Mr. Alli's clearly established rights and Plaintiff is entitled to damages for this conduct.

THIRTEENTH CLAIM: CLAIM FOR VICARIOUS LIABILITY UNDER RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

(Against City and Policy-making Defendants)

- 247. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the Paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein with the same force and effect.
- 248. At all times alleged herein, Defendants acted under color of state law in their capacity of DOC officers, employees, staff, and/or agents.
- 249. The acts of Assaulting Officers and Uniformed and Supervisory Defendants was intentional, willful and tortious and committed within the scope of their DOC employment and in furtherance of the City's interests.
- 250. These acts proximately caused Mr. Alli's injuries and violated Mr. Alli's clearly established rights.
 - 251. Plaintiff is entitled to damages for this conduct.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff hereby prays for relief and demands judgment in his favor against defendants, as follows:

- (i) Compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- (ii) Punitive damages against each defendant, except the City of New York, in any amount to be determined a trial;
- (iii) Public discipline and sanctioning of Assaulting Officers
- (iv) Award of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements of this action;
- (v) Award of Pre- and post-judgment interest, as permitted by law; and
- (vi) Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

252. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated:

New York, New York

March 27, 2013

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